PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

NOVA SCOTIA GENEALOGICAL SOURCES

COUNTY GUIDE SERIES

NO. 7 — GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY

compiled by

Philip L. Hartling

90-06506/

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This booklet is part of the Nova Scotia Genealogical Sources County Guide Series. There are a total of nineteen guides in this series; one for each of the eighteen counties, and one for the City of Halifax. The contents of each guide will assist genealogical researchers by providing quick access via a standard list to specific sources available at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia (PANS).

Within each guide, the list is divided into Published Sources (published genealogies; published community/county histories; directories; and newspapers) and Manuscript Sources (papers of families and individuals; church registers; community records and unpublished histories; cemetery inscriptions; census records; education papers; land records; vital statistics; deeds; wills; and some map sources). Please note that some published sources are listed within the Manuscript Sources. All sources are followed by a PANS retrieval number. Visiting researchers should also consult the card indexes on the Second and Third Floors for new entries; and should note that the Biography and Genealogy indexes on the Third Floor will yield sources not covered by this guide series.

Two books recommended for genealogical research are: Julie Morris, Tracing Your Ancestors in Nova Scotia (3rd ed.; Halifax: PANS, 1987), a general guide to sources; and Terrence M. Punch, Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia (3rd ed.; Halifax: Petheric, 1983), a handbook outlining research methods and Nova Scotian sources. In addition, the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia has published various research sources, such as the series of Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers; see the inside back cover of this guide for details.

The PANS does not loan archival or library materials. The National Archives of Canada and the Genealogical Society of Utah (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, LDS), however, have microfilmed various Nova Scotian records, which are available through inter-institutional loan. For further details, contact the National Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3, and/or the nearest LDS Branch Library.

© PANS: 1990 ISBN 0-88871-154-9
Series Co-ordinator, Julie Morris
Printed by The Allen Print Ltd., Halifax, N.S.
Cover photograph by Norman Wade Co. Ltd., Halifax
Public Archives of Nova Scotia
6016 University Avenue, Halifax, N.S. B3H 1W4
(902) 424-6060

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains a map and a list of genealogical sources for Guysborough County at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia (PANS). Sydney County was created in 1784 and it encompassed most of present-day Guysborough and Antigonish counties. Townships, in what is now Guysborough County, included Guysborough, Manchester, Wilmot, Stormont and St. Mary's. When St. Mary's Township was established in 1818, the western part was in Halifax County. Four years later, however, the Halifax County section of the township was annexed to Sydney County.

In 1823 Sydney County was divided into upper and lower districts. The lower district became Guysborough County in 1836 and the upper district retained the name Sydney County until it was renamed Antigonish County in 1863. Guysborough County took its name from the township, named in honour of Sir Guy Carleton. (See: C. Bruce Fergusson, The Boundaries of Nova Scotia and its counties, F90/N85/AR2B/#22.)

The two major historical and genealogical books on Guysborough County are Harriet Cunningham Hart's History of the County of Guysborough and A. C. Jost's Guysborough Sketches and Essays. As many early settlers were Loyalists, researchers should also consult Marion Gilroy's chapter on Sydney County in Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia (pages 119-145).

This publication is printed on acid-free recycled paper.

PUBLISHED SOURCES

GENEALOGIES:

For a list of published genealogies see: Allan E. Marble, A Catalogue of Published Genealogies of Nova Scotian Families (CS88/N935/M312/1984).

COMMUNITY/COUNTY HISTORIES:

Place-Names and Places of Nova Scotia, 1967 (F90/N85/AR2N and Micro N936; copies also on the Third Floor) provides brief but useful historical background on most Nova Scotian communities.

Carter, Auldon B.	They came to Phillips Harbour, 1989 (F5249/C323/T421).
Chisholm, Roy A.	A memorial to the E. Country Harbour - Stormont United Empire Loyalists, 1982 (V/F, Vol. 308, #12).
Cook, Findlay	History and stories of Isaac's Harbour & Goldboro, 1976 (F5249/C772/I73).
Grant, John N.	"The development of Sherbrooke Village to 1800", Nova Scotia Historical Quarterly, Vol. 2, No. 1, 1972 (F5200/N93/H6/Vol. 2).
Harding, Anne Borden	"Records from Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia", New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. 125, 1971 (pp. 114-123, 194-199, 256-261) (F37.1/N42/Vol. 125).
Hart, Harriet C.	History of Canso, Guysborough County, N.S., 1927 (V/F, Vol. 258, #39).

History of the County of Guysborough, 1877 and ca. 1897, reprinted 1975 (F5248/G99/H32/1975) and Index (F5248/G99/H32/Index).

Jost, Arthur C. Guysborough sketches and essays, 1950 (F106/G9/J79).

Koen, Mary Elizabeth Index to Guysborough sketches and other essays by A. C. Jost..., 1984 (F106/G9/J79/I38).

MacDonald, Florence M. Sherbrooke...as I remember it, 1987 (V/F, Vol. 254, #19).

MacMillan, Arnold J. The pioneers and descendants of Eastern Nova Scotia during the 1800s and early 1900s, 1978 [Isaac's Harbour] (F5249/I74/M167).

Morrison, John A. Historic Canso, 1928 (V/F, Vol. 259, #21).

Punch, Terrence M. "Render unto God...: a Guysborough assessment of 1804", Nova Scotia Genealogist, Vol. 4, No. 3, Nov. 1986, pp. 160-162 (CS80/N935/Vol. 4, No. 3).

Purcell, Colin The story of Mulgrave, 1980 (F5249/M956/P985).

Rawlyk, G. "The Guysborough Negroes: a study in isolation", Dalhousie Review, Spring, 1968 (F90/D15/1968).

Salsman, Lillian V. Homeland: Country Harbour, N.S. 1783-1983, 1984 (F5249/C855/S175).

Souvenir Number: The Canso News, May 1912 (V/F, Vol. 54, #6).

Wilson, Sarah United Empire Loyalists of Country Harbour..., 1983[?] (V/F, Vol. 259, #30).

DIRECTORIES:

1864-67 Hutchinson's Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: H978/N93).

1868-69 McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory (F91/N85/M11).

1870-71 McAlpine's Maritime Provinces Directory (F129/M11/M33).

1871 Lovell's Province of Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: L899).

1890-97 McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: M114).

1896 McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: M114).

1902 McAlpine's Nova Scotia, Magdalen Islands and St. Pierre Directory (Micro: M114).

1907-08 McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: M114).

1914-15 McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: M114).

NEWSPAPERS:

Nova Scotia has a long history of newspaper publishing, dating from The Halifax Gazette of 1752. The PANS newspaper holdings are found in the Library on the Second Floor. To help locate the appropriate newspaper, please consult the Kardex and/or Union List of Newspapers. Several compilations of extracted vital statistics are available. To date, these are:

1. "Vital Statistics from The Christian Messenger 1837-1846" (Baptist newspaper), compiled by Jean Holder and Grace Hubley, and "1847-1858", compiled by Ruth and Ross Burgess (Micro: Places: Nova Scotia: Vital Statistics: Reels 1 and 2).

2. "Vital Statistics from The Presbyterian Witness", 1848-1857 and 1858-1864, compiled by L. Shirley McCormick (Micro: Places: Nova Scotia: Vital Statistics: Reels 3 and 4).

3. Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers (CD3649/935). See inside back cover for details.

MANUSCRIPT SOURCES

PAPERS OF FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS:

Researchers should consult the Inventory of Manuscripts (Halifax: PANS, 1976), as well as the Genealogy and Biography card indexes on the Third Floor, to determine if there are entries for the specific families they are researching.

CHURCH REGISTERS:

All church registers are on microfilm (PANS Micro: Churches: community name) unless otherwise specified. If your family resided in an area before a church was constructed, check the records for neighbouring communities. Their church registers should be checked, especially for records in the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth centuries.

A card index arranged alphabetically by community is available in the grey Rolodex files on the Third Floor, and will provide the most up-to-date information on church records held at PANS. Access restrictions pertain to some church records. Abbreviations used: BP - Baptisms; BU - Burials; D - Deaths; and M - Marriages; Ang. - Anglican; Bapt. - Baptist; Meth. - Methodist; Presb. - Presbyterian; Un. - United.

Canso - All Saints' Ang. - BP 1886-1926; M 1891-1961;
BU 1888-1970.

Country Harbour - Holy Trinity Ang. - BP 1851-1948; M 1852-1949; BU 1852-1948.

Country Harbour - Holy Trinity Ang. - BP 1852-1948 (incomplete); M 1852-1949 (incomplete); BU 1852-1948 (incomplete) (Micro: Churches: Antigonish: St. Paul's Ang.).

Ecum Secum - St. Barnabas' Ang. - BP 1910-1960; M 1910-1962; BU 1910-1959.

Guysborough - Bapt. - Births 1826-1852; BP 1872-1873; M 1831-1860; Membership Lists 1829-ca. 1873.

Guysborough - Christ Church Ang. - BP 1786-1880, 1890; M 1786-1880; BU 1787-1880, 1904.

Guysborough - Meth. Circuit/Un. - BP 1830-1944; M 1825-1944; BU 1907-1944.

Guysborough - Un. - BP 1854-1965; M 1876-1965; BU 1907-1966.

Guysborough - Wesley Un. - BP 1854-1962; M 1829-1956; BU 1873-1968.

Halfway Cove - St. James' Ang. - BP 1880-1905; M 1880-1904; BU 1883-1904.

Isaac's Harbour - Bapt. - Historic Roll, 1840-1962 (MG 4, Vol. 246, #9).

Liscomb - St. Luke's Ang. - BP 1852-1958; M 1852-1920.

Manchester - St. Paul's Ang. - BP 1847-1903; M 1848-1904; BU 1848-1904.

Melford - St. James' Ang. - BP 1854-1924; M 1855-1924; BU 1854-1924.

Queensport - Christ Church Ang. - BP 1905-1942; M 1905-1942; BU 1906-1942.

Sherbrooke - St. John's Un. - BP 1892-1981; M 1895-1981; BU 1899-1981.

Other churches which contain vital statistics on Guysborough County families:

Antigonish - St. James' Un. - BP 1860-1961; M 1854-1962 (incomplete); BU 1860-1959 (incomplete).

Antigonish - St. Paul's Ang. - BP 1829-1941; M 1830-1976 (incomplete); BU 1831-1976.

Eastern Passage - St. Peter's Ang. - BP 1867-1981; M 1887-1981; BU 1904-1981. (Records for the summer months of 1914, 1915, and 1916 contain entries for residents of Country Harbour, Fisherman's Harbour, and Port Bickerton. The Rev. D. Edwards spent part of his summers there.)

Halifax - St. Paul's Ang. - 1749-1954.

Lochaber - Presb./Un. (includes St. Mary's River) - BP 1822-1952 (births listed begin in 1812); M 1811-1952; D 1905-1977.

Port Dufferin - St. James' Ang. - BP 1847-1986; M 1848-1986; BU 1848-1987. (1847 to 1910 records relevant to Guysborough Co.)

Port Hastings - St. David's Presb./Un. - BP 1852-1939; M 1852-1919; BU 1887-1907.

Ship Harbour - St. Stephen's Ang. - BP 1841-1982; M 1847-1981; BU 1864-1982. (1840s records relevant to Guysborough Co.)

COMMUNITY RECORDS:

Country Harbour - See: Stormont.

Ecum Secum - "Sketches and descriptions of historic buildings and brief essays on the rural communities of Ecum Secum/Marie Joseph/New Chester", Local History Project, St. Mary's Rural High School, Sherbrooke, 1975 by Jim Bezanson (LE5/S55).

Guysborough - "Guysborough Town", history by Guysborough High School, n.d. (Micro: MG 4, Vol. 36).

- "History of Guysboro" by Grade VI students of Guysboro Academy, 1933 (MG 4, Vol. 37).

- See also: Manchester.

Guysborough Co. - Genealogies compiled by A. C. Jost (Micro: Places: Guysborough Co.: Genealogies).

Liscomb - "History of Liscomb", by Hazel Pye, 1910 (MG 100, Vol. 176, #8).

Manchester and Guysborough - Township Book, 1782-1869 (Micro: Places: Manchester Township and Guysborough Township).

Marie Joseph - See: Ecum Secum.

New Chester - See: Ecum Secum.

New Harbour - "History of New Harbour", Grade 8 project, n.d. (MG 4, Vol. 119).

St. Mary's - Township Book, 1807-1867 (Micro: MG 4, Vol. 138).

Sherbrooke - History (MG 100, Vol. 221, #5).

Stormont - "Stormont - A Town Unbuilt", by Clare Giffin (MG 100, Vol. 234, #34).

Stormont Township - Township Book, 1784-1877 (Micro: Places: Stormont Township).

CEMETERIES:

The cemeteries collection includes transcripts of inscriptions from tombstones or grave markers, and cemetery

company records. A card index arranged alphabetically by community is available in the beige Rolodex files on the Third Floor, and will provide the most up-to-date information on cemetery records held at PANS.

CENSUS RECORDS:

Poll tax lists, which name the head of household, are available for Guysborough County, 1791-1796. They are arranged alphabetically by community name, and have been grouped with the early census returns.

The 1817 and 1838 census records for Guysborough County are in geographical order by name of the community or township.

The census records for 1861 to 1891 are arranged by assigned districts, which are listed on the outside of the microfilm box. Valuable genealogical information, such as individual's name, sex, age, religion, occupation, ethnic origin, country or province of birth, and marital status, is given in the 1871, 1881 and 1891 census records.

Indices are available for the census records of 1817, 1838, 1861 and 1871 (included below).

REFERENCES: 1791-1795, Reels 3, 5, 7;
1817, Reels 3, 5, 7 and Index (V/F, Vol. 159, #7);
1838, Reels 4, 6, 8 and Index (HA748/G986/1838);
1861, Reel 21 and Index (HA748/G986/1861);
1871, Reels 60-61 and Index (HA748/G986/1871);
1881, Reels 70-71;
1891, Reel 86.

See also: Microfilm Finding Aid - Miscellaneous - Census.
(Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

EDUCATION PAPERS:

The education papers, 1812-1887, include warrants for payments to trustees, general correspondence, statistical returns and reports, petitions, grants, abstracts, some minutes of the school boards, contracts, and attendance records. In the papers for the 1820s and 1830s, names and ages of pupils, names of parents or guardians, and lists of schools may be found.

REFERENCES: RG 14, Vols. 13-22. See: Inventory of Manuscripts, p. 132-133, and RG 14 Finding Aid for detailed listings.

LAND PAPERS:

The PANS has microfilm copies of land papers and grants. The land papers include petitions for grants, survey warrants, survey descriptions, and grants, 1765-1914; coverage after ca. 1840 is sporadic. A surname card index is available; it is divided into two sections, 1765-1799 and 1800-1914. These papers are of immense value to genealogists, since a petitioner may mention his county and country of birth, military service, and the number of children in the family (Micro: RG 20, Series "A", 94 reels). The PANS also has land grants from the Crown Lands Office, covering the years 1738-1962 (Micro: Places: Nova

Scotia: Land Grants, 147 reels; index, A-G, Reel 1; H-Z, Reel 2). Another collection of petitions for land covers the period 1815-1890 (Micro: RG 20, Series "E", 17 reels; introduction and index on Reel 1). Ungranted petitions are also available (RG 20, Series "U", 5 reels; introduction and index on Reel 1). The Crown Lands papers offer supplementary information concerning land settlement (RG 20, Series "C", 186 vols.).

Subsequent land transactions after the initial grant are recorded as deeds. See Registry of Deeds information below.

VITAL STATISTICS:

Births (1864-1876):

This collection is on microfilm, and is indexed and arranged by county. The index is alphabetical by surname. Please copy the county name, year, page, and number of the index entry.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Reels 320-325 (index); RG 32, Series "WB", Reel 339 (registrations). (Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

Deaths (1864-1877):

This collection is used in the same way as Births.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Reels 326-328 (index); RG 32, Series "WB", Reel 348 (registrations). (Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

Marriages (1864-1906):

This collection is used in the same way as Births. The

index is, however, arranged first by county, then alphabetically by the individual's name; both brides and grooms are listed.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Reel 331 (index); RG 32, Series "WB", Reel 358 (registrations). (Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

Marriage Bonds (1763-1864):

This collection of bonds (a form of early licence sometimes used instead of calling the banns) is arranged by date and there is no surname index. A two-volume typed transcript is available near the Third Floor Desk.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Marriage Bonds, 13 reels.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS:

Once land was granted by the Crown, any subsequent transaction was recorded as a deed. The original deeds are found in two Registry of Deeds Offices: P.O. Box 123, Guysborough, Nova Scotia B0H 1N0; and P.O. Box 166, Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia B0J 3C0. Microfilm copies of Guysborough County deeds at PANS are: Guysborough - Indices, 1785-1969; Deeds, 1785-1910; and Land Grants Indices, 1854-1967; and Sherbrooke - Indices, 1815-1969; Deeds 1815-1910; and Land Grants, 1855-1969; all of which are located on the Second Floor. Please consult Finding Aid for individual reels.

PROBATE RECORDS:

Probate records include the will books, estate papers

and supporting documents which enable the executors or appointed administrators to settle the estate. Original wills and estate papers are found in two Probate Offices: P.O. Box 123, Guysborough, Nova Scotia B0H 1N0; and Box 166, Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia B0J 3C0. Microfilm copies of Guysborough County probate records at the PANS are: Guysborough - Index, 1942-1967; Will Books, 1942-1967; miscellaneous records, 1922-1969; and Sherbrooke - Index to Probate Records, 1843-1969; Will Books, 1843-1969; and miscellaneous records, 1946-1969; all of which are located on the Second Floor. Please consult Finding Aid for individual reels.

MAP SOURCES (FIFTH FLOOR):

The Ambrose F. Church Co. topographical maps of Nova Scotia counties were produced between 1865 and 1888; the one for Guysborough County was published in 1874. These maps feature detailed plans of the various census districts and townships, including locations of buildings, names of occupants, transportation routes and various geographical markings.

FIFTH FLOOR:

The Fifth Floor collections may be useful in providing information about how people of various time periods lived, what kind of clothing they wore, what their homes looked like, what stories they told their children, the music they played or listened to, what their daily routine was comprised of, etc.

Pictures, photographs, maps, architectural plans, and film and sound recordings can portray these aspects of life and should not be overlooked. We suggest that you telephone the Fifth Floor prior to your visit, because the complex nature of their collections may require the archivists' assistance. Normal working hours there are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with limited service to pictures, photographs, maps and plans on Wednesday evenings.

NOTES

NOTES

GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

P.O. BOX 641, STATION M, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, B3J 2T3 CANADA

PUBLICATIONS:

P-1 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1813-1822.

P-2 A Catalogue of Published Genealogies of Nova Scotia Families.

P-3 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1823-1828.

P-5 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1769-1812 (also includes a Supplement to Years 1813-1822).

P-6 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1829-1834.

P-7 Baptisms, Marriages & Burials 1749-1768 for St. Paul's Church, Halifax (oldest English-speaking congregation in Canada).

P-8 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1835-1839.

P-9 In Which County? Nova Scotia Surnames from Birth Registers 1864-1877.

P-10 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1840-1843.

P-11 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1844-1847.

P-12 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1848-1851.

P-13 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1852-1854.

ALL OF THE ABOVE PUBLICATIONS ARE $13.00 EACH

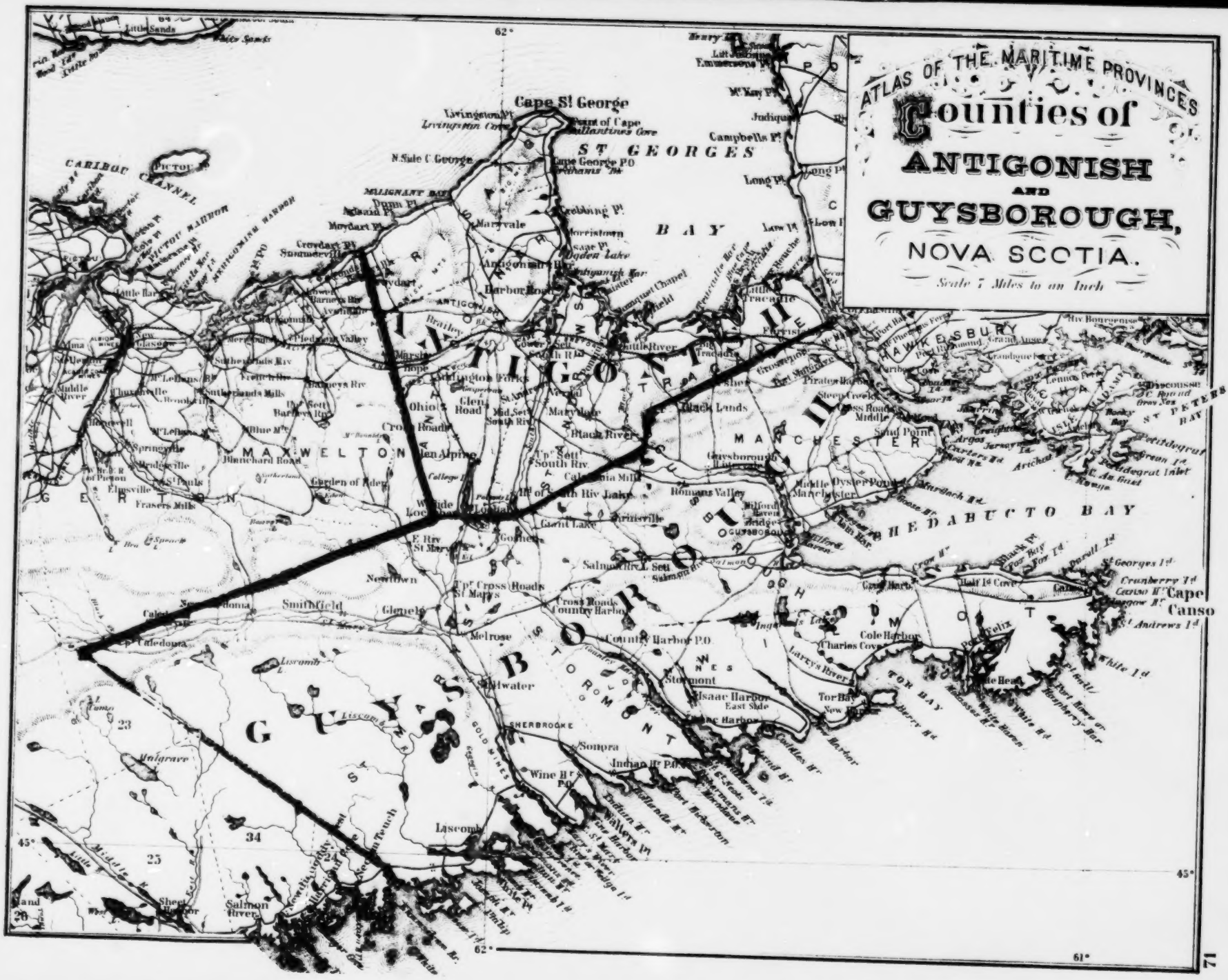
REFERENCE BOOKS:

R-1 Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia, by Terrence M. Punch (136 pages). $10.00

R-2 Tracing Your Ancestors in Nova Scotia, by Julie Morris (11 pages). $ 3.00

R-6 A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada Before Confederation, by Donald Whyte (12,501 entries, 443 pages). $23.00

PLEASE ADD $1.00 PER ITEM FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING


ATLAS OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES
Counties of
ANTIGONISH
AND
GUYSBOROUGH,
NOVA SCOTIA.
Scale 7 Miles to an Inch
Cape St George
ST GEORGES
BAY
ANTIGONISH
GUYSBOROUGH
MAXWELTON
MANCHESTER
HAWKESBURY
CHEDABUCTO BAY
Canso
Sherbrooke
Lascomb
Salmon River
Sheet Harbor
Isaac Harbor
Country Harbor
Cole Harbor
Charles Cove
Tor Bay
Larry's River
Stormont
Melrose
Smithfield
Glenelg
Caledonia
Newtown
Sompra
Indian Hr P.O.
Wine Hr P.O.
Walfrave
Guysborough
Middle Musquodoboit
Middle Dyster Pond
Sand Point
Black Lands
Black River
Romans Valley
Milford
Salmon R.
Salmon Hr
Crow Hr
Half Id Cove
Cranberry Id
Canso Hr
St Andrews Id
White Id
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Port Howe
Port Mulgrave
Port Hawkesbury
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Port Hastings
Port Malcolm
Port Hood
Port Bickerton
Port Mouton
Port Medway
Port Joli
Port Shoreham
Port Matoon
Port Hebert
Port Clyde
Port Latour
Port Maitland
Port Acadie
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Port Greville
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61°
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